

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 141230Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3167
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3687

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, SU
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI MONTHLY SPEECH

REF: KHARTOUM 3582

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI IN MONTHLY TELEVISION ADDRESS
STRESSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL SECURITY AND
RELIGIOUS MATTERS. THOUGH LESS DEFENSIVE AND EXPLICIT
THAN IN RECENT MONTHS, NIMEIRI CONTINUED TO ATTACK LIBYA,
USSR AND SUDANESE WHO SUPPORTED JULY COUP ATTEMPT. HE ALSO
INDIRECTLY CRITICIZED ETHIOPIA FOR "SEEKING EXPORT THEIR
PROBLEMS". NIMEIRI CITED LONG LIST OF THOSE PROVIDING
ASSISTANCE, GIVING PRIDE OF PLACE TO USG DECISION MAKING
SUDAN ELIGIBLE FOR FMS TRANSACTIONS. SPEECH CLOSED WITH
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PROHIBITION WILL BE DECREED IN
UNSPECIFIED FUTURE TIME. END SUMMARY.

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1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MADE HIS MONTHLY "FACE-UP THE NATION" TELEVISION ADDRESS DECEMBER 13 FOR THE FIRST TIME IN COLOR (WHICH FEW LOCAL SETS CAN RECEIVE). HE BEGAN BY REPORTING ON RECENT PILGRIMAGE WHERE HE MET KING KHALID AS WELL AS PRESIDENTS OF TURKEY AND MAURETANIA. NIMEIRI EXPATIATED ON PROBLEM HANDLING PILGRIMAGE VISITORS TO SAUDI ARABIA, ASSERTING GOS AND SAG WILL BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PILGRIMAGE AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL.

2. NIMEIRI THEN DWELT ON CONTINUING EXTERNAL THREAT. HE SAID QUOTE WE ARE AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENING BEYOND BORDERS OF OUR COUNTRY. WE ARE FOLLOWING IT, RECORDING IT. NOT ONLY MOVEMENTS OF OUTLAWS BUT TRENDS OF THEIR THINKING, THEIR CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN BODIES WHICH THEY WORK (WITH) TO EXECUTE THEIR PLANS. UNQUOTE. NOTING GREAT POWERS CANNOT FIGHT EACH OTHER DIRECTLY SINCE THIS WOULD LEAD TO NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST, NIMEIRI SAID WORLD CURRENTLY LIVING IN AN ERA WHEN BIG HID BEHIND SMALL NATIONS. BUT HE WARNED THAT THOSE WHO THINK THEY ABLE EXPORT THEIR PROBLEMS BEYOND THEIR BORDERS WILL BE SEVERELY CONFRONTED AND TOTALLY DEFEATED. NIMEIRI DENIED HE HAD SOUGHT RECONCILIATION WITH JULY COUP ATTEMPT PLOTTERS (I.E., SADDIQ AL-MAHDI'S FOLLOWERS) IN SAUDI ARABIA DURING PILGRIMAGE. HE AGAIN FORCEFULLY CLOSED DOOR TO ANY PROSPECT OF RECONCILIATION.

3. ON MORE POSITIVE NOTE NIMEIRI REVIEWED LONG LIST OF NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS AND NEW INVESTMENTS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS CONCLUDED OR DISCUSSED DURING PAST MONTH WITH IBRD, EEC, SOUTH KOREA AND SEVERAL EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, HE LED OFF WITH REFERENCE TO RECENT USG DECISION MAKING SUDAN ELIGIBLE FOR ARMS SALES WHICH, HE SAID, QUOTE WAS BASED ON FULL UNDERSTANDING OF SUDAN'S SIZE, POSITION AND IMPACT IN ARAB, AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL ARENA IN ADDITION TO ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FIELDS OF CONSTRUCTION AND PEACE. UNQUOTE.

4. NIMEIRI ALSO COVERED NUMBER MATTERS LOCAL INTEREST INCLUDING INADEQUATE TELEPHONE SERVICE, STATUS KENANA PROJECT AND SEVERE PENALTIES TO BE HANDED TO DRUNK DRIVERS, FOLLOWING RECENT TRAFFIC ACCIDENT HERE WHICH TOOK TEN LIVES. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE CONCLUDED THAT OTHER "FORMALITIES AND MEASURES" WILL FOLLOW IN FUTURE AIMING AT PROHIBITING DRINKING OF ALCOHOL. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: NIMEIRI EMPHASIZED EXTERNAL THREAT AND STRONG SUPPORT FROM US AND OTHERS (REFTEL). HE REMAINS FIRMLY

OPPOSED TO ANY RECONCILIATION WITH ANSAR. HE WAS LESS
EXPLICIT IN HIS CONTINUING CONDEMNATION OF LIBYANS AND
SOVIETS, BUT HIS HEARERS WILL HAVE UNDERSTOOD. NEW ELEMENT
IN SPEECH WAS APPARENT CRITICAL REFERENCE TO ETHIOPIA (I.E.,
"THOSE WHO THINK THEY ABLE TO EXPORT THEIR PROBLEMS").
THIS REFLECTS STRAINS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS (SEPTTEL).
HIS REMARKS RE PILGRIMAGE AND EVILS OF ALCOHOL REFLECT HIS
OWN CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION AS WELL PROBABLE
DESIRE PRIPITIATE SAUDIS, THOUGH EARLIER RUMORS THAT NIMEIRI
WOULD ANNOUNCE BOTH PROHIBITION AND CLOSURE OF CINEMAS
NOT BORNE OUT.
BREWER

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